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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In conformity with the pertinent information received recently from the Government of Angola and in compliance with the approved March schedule by the Joint Commission, the Chief General Staff of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) has announced, beginning Monday 25 March, the withdrawal of its troops to the nearest barracks.

The areas mentioned are the following:

Quelo;

Quiximba, the northern front;

Calima;

Santo Amaro;

Caala;

Cuquema;

Cunje;

Canjala;

Biopio, central front;

Cuvelai;

Mupa;

Tchivemba, southern front.

In accomplishing this programme, the Angolan Armed Forces will be pursuing the task envisaged in the common actions approved just recently for the month of March.

In the same spirit, 500 police contingents (RPI) in Moxico Province were quartered to their barracks under the supervision of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) police observers.

As far as the so-called mercenaries are concerned, the Angolan Government has already stated that the Armed Forces did not have any mercenaries in its ranks.

We want to avail ourselves of this opportunity to recall that to date the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) has only quartered 17,000 of the 60,000 soldiers announced, at a very slow pace, and that those troops have not brought with them all the heavy weapons such as armoured cars and other materials used in their profession.

The Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations, on behalf of the Government of Angola, takes this opportunity to reaffirm its steadfast determination to fulfil faithfully all the tasks prescribed in the approved schedule, especially those approved in Franceville, Gabon, on 1 March 1996.

The Government of Angola has already terminated its contract with the Executive Outcomes company and its departure from Angola was supervised by observers from UNAVEM III.

In the spirit of solidarity and respect for human values, we are asking the UNITA leadership to liberate all the prisoners of war remaining in UNITA's custody, since the Government has already done the same.

The Angolan Government kindly requests the President of the Security Council to inform the members of the Security Council regarding the above and requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN-DUNEM "MBINDA"
Ambassador
Permanent Representative